

BUCKHURST HILL

Urban District Council.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1923.

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BUCKHURST HILL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending the 31st December, 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	873 acres (land).
Population, Census, 1921				...	4,932.
Population, estimated, 1923				...	4,979.
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)					1,100 (about).
Number of Families or separate					
Occupiers (1921)	...	...			1,400 (about).
Rateable value	...	...	...		£29,890.
Assessable value		...	...		£28,888.
Sum represented by a Penny					
Rate	...	...	...	...	£115

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

					Boys.	Girls.
Births during the year	{	Legitimate			42	36)
		Illegitimate			1	2)
Birth rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	81.
Deaths registered in the District	...	...	...	...	...	16·1.
Corrections: Additions	...	...	...	...	6	51.
Deductions	...	...	...	...	7	
					—————	—————
Deaths, net	...	...	...	...		50.
						—
Death rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	...	...	...	10·0.
Number of Women dying in consequence of Child-birth	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1923.

No.	Cause.				Age.
1	Atelectasis	...	...	...	2 Days.
1	Premature Birth	...	...	...	1 Month.
1	Premature Birth	...	...	...	5 Days.
1	Premature Birth	...	...	...	12 Hours.
1	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5 Months.
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Births					61·7.

		Boys.	Girls.	
Deaths during the year ...	Total ...	4	1	5.
	Illegitimate	(0	0	0)
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „	Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	1.
„ „	Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)		...	Nil.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	No.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil.	—	—
Diphtheria	Nil.	—	—
Scarlet Fever	I	I	Nil
Enteric, including Paratyphoid	I	I	—
Puerperal Fever	Nil	—	—
Erysipelas	I	—	Nil
Dysentery	Nil	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	2
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary M.	I	—	2
F.	5	—	2
(b) Non-Pulmonary M.	I	—	—
F.	I	—	—
Total	8	—	—
Total	14	2	6

Number of Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified—Nil.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 year	...	...	5
1 and under 2	...	...	I
2 " 5	...	...	I
5 " 15	...	...	I
15 " 25	...	...	2
25 " 45	...	...	5
45 " 65	...	...	17
65 and upwards	...	...	18
			—
			50

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	I	—	—	—	I	—	—
20	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	I	I	—	—	2	I	—	—
35	...	...	—	I	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	I	5	I	I	2	2	—	—

All cases of Death had been notified.

SUMMARY OF HOSPITALS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

No professional Nursing in the home is provided by the Urban District Council.

MIDWIVES.

The only Midwife practising in the District was Miss Aanensen, the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In 1918 a combined appointment of Maternity Nurse and Child Welfare Visitor was made and it still continues to work well. The Child Welfare Centre is again a great success. This is largely attributable to the great interest taken in it by the Voluntary Workers and the untiring efforts of Nurse Aanensen. Of the Voluntary Workers Mrs. Bennett and Mrs. Norman have reluctantly been compelled to resign, their places being taken by Mrs. Abraham and Mrs. Fisher. Miss Bishop still continues her activities at the clinic.

REPORT BY NURSE AANENSEN FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1923.

The number on the clinic Register at the end of December, including 50 new entrants, is 148, which shows a slight increase on last year's figure of 137. During the year 18 have left to attend School and 5 have left the district entirely.

The average weekly attendance is 55. This high figure would go to show a greater interest being taken by the mothers in the Council's Clinic, where the supply of Dried Milk and Virol is still very much appreciated. In addition, Vitmar and Cod Liver Oil and Malt are also now obtainable at the Clinic.

Health Visits	...	...	...	972
Sick Visits	...	...	...	325
Ante Natal Visits	...	...	...	182
Maternity Visits	...	...	...	389
Midwifery Cases	...	...	...	23
Doctors Cases	...	...	...	3

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

FEVER.

An Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is provided by the Waltham Joint Hospital Board. At the Hospital there is accommodation for 40 patients, and three Diseases can be treated concurrently.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

A Motor Ambulance for Infectious Diseases is maintained by the Hospital Board.

LABORATORY WORK.

Swabs were examined for Diphtheria Bacilli. Arrangements exist for the examination of Sputum for Tubercle when necessary.

Anti-toxin is issued free on request from Medical Men in the District.

Bacteriological examinations for Diphtheria Bacilli, 4.

LOCAL ACTS.

Apart from the general Acts the following Acts have been adopted :

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 3.

Public Health Acts	Do.	1907, Part 2. (Except Section 25).
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Do.	Do.	Parts 3 and 4. (Except Section 66).
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Do.	Do.	Parts 8 and 9.
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BYE-LAWS.

New Streets and Buildings.

Respecting Nuisances,

Do. Slaughter-houses.

Do. Telegraph, etc., Wires.

Dairy Regulations and

Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Order of 1885.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923—							
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
(2) By other Bodies or Persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	nil.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	147
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910				86
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	16

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	85
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	4
---	-----	---

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—			
(a) by Owners	...	...	14
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close			
	...	..	nil.
B. <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>			
(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied			
	...	...	3
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—			
(a) by Owners	...	...	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	nil.
C. <i>Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.</i>			
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders			
	...	...	nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made			
	...	...	nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling- houses having been rendered fit			
			nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			
	...	...	nil.
(5) Number of Dwelling-houses de- molished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			
	...	...	nil.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

SUMMARY OF WORK

done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1923.

Complaints received	14
Nuisances detected without complaint	126
Nuisances abated	120
Animals improperly kept	6
Sundry Nuisances abated	3
Houses inspected under the H. & T. P. A., 1909	86
Slaughterhouses Visits	31
Bakehouses	47
Dairies and Milkshops	33
Cowkeepers	22
Workshops and Workplaces	50
Factories (excluding bakery visits)	13
Houses disinfected	5
Overcrowding reported	6
Overcrowding abated... ..	1
Houses placed in a habitable condition	16
Houses closed... ..	nil.
Cisterns cleaned, covered, etc.	9
Drains entirely re-laid	nil.
Drains amended	8
W.C.'s repaired, etc., and Water supplied	17
Dustbins supplied	44
Drains tested	8
Offensive trade inspections	18
Summons taken out	1
Convictions	1
Filthy houses cleansed	5
Increase of Rent and Mortgage Acts—Certificates	1
Seizures of unsound meat, etc.	3 lbs of bacon and a few pears.
Total number of visits and inspections	1,044

The two slaughter-houses were regularly inspected and the meat examined therein was, on the whole, of good quality.

The two places of entertainment have been visited and found satisfactory in all respects.

The two fish frying premises were inspected when frying was in progress and on each occasion the places were found to be clean and otherwise satisfactory and the fish to be of good quality.

The various Forest ponds were treated during the breeding season to destroy the mosquito larvæ.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Outworkers premises have been inspected, and in one case it was necessary for the Workshop to be cleansed.

During the year a continuous war was maintained against the rat population with fairly good results. Unfortunately a certain section of the inhabitants appear to be indifferent to the ravages of these vermin and cannot appreciate the danger to health by the presence of such animals. In November a Rat Week was held when all the inhabitants were advised as to the duties imposed upon all householders under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, and the penalties for neglecting to carry out the necessary measures to rid the premises of the vermin. Although whole-hearted co-operation was requested the response to the appeal was disappointing. Only 12 applications were received for poison and from subsequent enquiries it would appear that in most instances the places were cleared of rats. Through the agency of poison, cats, dogs and traps the number of rats known to have been accounted for during Rat Week was 43 and the total number destroyed was probably double that figure.

Though the Council is desirous of reducing materially the rat population, it is necessary for greater activity and closer co-operation amongst occupiers to effectually rid premises of the vermin.

Owners are still somewhat reluctant to execute repairs expeditiously, but on the whole there was an improvement upon the previous year.

NOTICES.

Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	125
„ „ outstanding	...	...	..	...	...	10
Notices served under the H. & T. P. A., 1909	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
„ „ „ Sec. 28, H. & T. P. A., 1919	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ outstanding under Sec. 28, H. & T. P. A., 1919	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ outstanding	...	...	...	...	...	nil.
The total amount of house refuse collected during the year was 2,358·5 yds.						

W. G. C. NEALE, C.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Officer.	Whole or Part Time.	If contribution is made towards Salary.	Certificates. Qualifications.
Medical Officer of Health.	Part.	Yes.	M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Yes.	R.S.I., S.I.E.B. & Meat Cert.
Health Visitor & Midwife.	Whole.	Yes.	C.M.B. & Mem. Col. Nurses.

Mr. W. G. C. Neale, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

HOUSING.

No Houses of the Working-class type have been built during the year. A considerable amount of overcrowding exists. There are indications that the erection of Houses of this type are under consideration, and these will be the obvious remedy to the problem which arises by more than one family occupying a dwelling primarily intended for one family only.

BUCKHURST HILL URBAN DISTRICT.

READING OF RAIN GAUGES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1923.

January	...	...	...	...	1'09
February	...	...	...	...	3'25
March	...	...	...	...	2'08
April ...	...	...	...	...	1'48
May ...	...	...	...	...	1'74
June ...	...	...	...	...	·68
July ...	...	...	...	...	2'82
August	...	...	...	...	1'89
September	...	...	...	...	1'61
October	...	...	...	...	4'94
November	...	...	...	...	1'83
December	...	...	...	...	2'19
Total					<u>25'60</u>

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S. AND L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

